

MINNESOTANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Minnesotans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Minnesota. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Minnesota.

INCOME: MINNESOTANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Minnesota was \$58,299¹
- In 2005, the median income in Minnesota was \$56,098, a drop of 3.8 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN MINNESOTA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Minnesota had 384,000 adults without insurance, (8.0 percent).³
- In 2005, Minnesota had 431,000 adults without insurance, (8.4 percent).⁴
- Minnesota had 5,076 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵ If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, Massachusetts will face a funding shortfall of \$30,335,000⁶

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN MINNESOTA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Minnesota was \$8,146.⁷ In 2005, it was \$11,958, a 47 percent increase.⁸
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Minnesota was \$21,556.⁹ In 2005, it was \$25,946, a 20 percent increase.¹⁰
- Number of Minnesotans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 82,496¹¹
- Number of Minnesotans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 58,235¹²

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR MINNESOTA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Minnesota was \$1.568 a gallon.¹³
- Today the average cost of gas in Minnesota is \$2.203 a gallon.¹⁴
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Minnesota was \$2,388.¹⁵
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Minnesota is \$3,356, \$967 (40.5 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁶

SOCIAL SECURITY: MINNESOTANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Minnesota – 775,050¹⁷
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Minnesota – \$886¹⁸

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: MINNESOTANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Minnesotans killed in Iraq – 38¹⁹
- Number of Minnesotans wounded in Iraq – 330²⁰
- Number of Minnesotans killed in Afghanistan – 1²¹
- Number of Minnesotans wounded in Afghanistan – 13²²
- Number of Veterans in Minnesota – 426,591²³

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING MINNESOTA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 466 estates in Minnesota paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²⁴
- Only 75 estates in Minnesota will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁵
- In contrast, 81,000 workers in Minnesota would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁶

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN MINNESOTA IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes per 100,000 residents in Minnesota in 2000 – 280.8²⁷
- Number of Violent Crimes per 100,000 residents in Minnesota in 2005 – 297.0²⁸
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 12,662,729²⁹
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 3,353,052³⁰

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST MINNESOTANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Minnesotans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Minnesota residents each received an average of \$2,836 in tax cuts, while middle class Minnesota residents received only \$432.³¹
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Minnesota residents will receive an average of \$35,726 in tax cuts, while middle class Minnesota residents will only receive \$814.³²
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Minnesota residents will each receive an average of \$75,428 in tax cuts, while middle class Minnesota residents will only receive \$942.³³

The richest Minnesotans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Minnesotans received 6.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.8 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- But, in 2006, the richest Minnesotans will get 23.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.5 percent of the tax cut.³⁵
- And, in 2010, the richest Minnesotans will get 46.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.3 percent of the tax cut.³⁶

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Minnesotans.

- In 2010, the richest Minnesotans will receive an average of \$11,354 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Minnesotans will be getting over 46.9 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁷
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Minnesotans will receive an average of \$88 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 7.1 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁸

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